“The Washington Buzz”

Yuma Pacific/SW Local Section
San Diego, CA
January 23, 2015
The Budget

- FY 15 Enacted $552.8 m ($565 m)

Notable –

+ $215,000 Federal Enforcement
+ $500,000 Whistleblower
+ $950,000 State Programs
- $1 M Fed Compliance Asst.

- Riders: Emphasis Programs
  Silica Science
The Budget

- FY 15 Enacted $334.9 m ($281 m)

Notable –

$114,000,000 NORA Funding

ERC Funding Continued
A Quick Look Back

- OSHA Reform
- Recordkeeping – Site Specific
- VPP Codification
- Safe Patient Handling
- Combustible Dust
- Logging Operations

All Likely Re-Introduced – Passage in 2015 – No Way!
Early Congressional Action

- Regulatory Reform –
  - Less Burdensome Alt.
  - Base on Cost
  - Review Existing

- Site Specific Recording

- Congressional Rules
  - Estimate Number of Regs
Congressional Options

- Oversight Hearings
  - Expect Plenty

- Budget Riders
  - Stop Specific Issues

- CRA

- Work to Stop Guidelines
OSHA Activity – The Biggies!

Crystalline Silica –

#1 Priority of OSHA

OSHA and White House –

“This WILL Happen”

Confined Spaces in Construction –

Final 3/15?
OSHA Activity – The Biggies!

Beryllium –
  Sent to White House for Review
  NPRM – 01/15 Oops!

Electronic Recordkeeping –
  Lots of Opposition - Doubtful
Other OSHA Activity

Infectious Diseases Rule –
Small Business Review Complete
Recommend Starting Over?

Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)
- OSHA Publishes Annotated Tables
- FACOSH
- RFI

Tough Nut to Crack! Likely Years Away If Then!
Doubtful OSHA Activity

- Injury & Illness Prevention Program (I2P2)
- Combustible Dust
- MSD Recording

And –

Safe Patient Handling
Safety Incentives
Abatement During Citations
The Leader in OS&H

The States!

- Half with State Plans
- Issues –
  - VPP
  - Safe Patient handling
  - Mold Remediation
  - Confined Spaces
  - Abatement Issues
  - Heat Stress
  - Exposure Limits
  - Caution – Budgets!
Here’s The Problem

**Industry**
- Cost is too High!

**Labor**
- Regulations Not Tough Enough!

**Both Are Wrong**

- Will Cost Really Make a Difference?
- Something is Better Than Nothing!
Washington

- Washington’s Inability to Lead
- November Election Impact
  - Senate – House
  - Guidelines
  - Budget Riders
  - CRA
- 2016 Election
- OSHA & Others
  - Funding
AIHA – Top Public Policy Issues

General issues –

1) PELs Update
2) Risk Assessment
3) Confined Spaces

Specific Individual Hazards

1) Combustible Dust
2) Silica
3) Noise/Hearing Protection
AIHA – Top Public Policy Issues

Legislative issues –

1) PELs Update
2) Appropriations (OSHA, NIOSH, etc)
3) Combustible Dust

General Association Issues

1) Professional Ethics
2) National Standards
3) Laboratory Accreditation
There Are Positives

**Congress** – Founding Fathers were Right!
*It’s Supposed To Take Time*

**OSHA** – Ergo, IAQ,
*Regulations and Standards Not Always Needed*

**H&S Professionals** – You are Doing the Job!!
*Workers Are Protected*

**Lemonade from Lemons**
*Budget Cuts Present Opportunities*
*Shortage of Needed Professionals*
Reality

“To Those Who Think of Politics Simply as a Game – They Don’t Understand That It’s The Most Important Game Our Country Is Involved With, Every Day.”
Thanks!

And Remember –

“You Can’t Escape Politics – You Either Play or Be Played.”

Aaron K Trippler
AIHA Director Government Affairs
atrippler@aiha.org